

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each board 12 has a front wall 21 with a front surface 22, and a rear wall 24 with front and rear surfaces 25 and 26. The front wall 21 and surface 22 typically have a width of three (3) inches. The rear surfaces 26 25 of the boards 12 lay flush against the wall. The rear wall 24 has a middle portion that integrally joins two adjacent slats 12 to form a single piece, and an upper portion for positioning and engaging a separate adjacent piece. Each board 12 has opposed top and bottom side walls 28 and 29. The cross-sectional shape of the side walls 28 and 29 of each board 12 are similarly shaped mirror images. The top side 28 forms an upwardly extending upper lip 31 with a substantially horizontal outer end or end surface 32 and a substantially vertical inner surface 33. The bottom side 29 has a downwardly extending lower lip 35 with a substantially horizontal outer end or end surface 36 and a substantially vertical inner surface 37. The inside surfaces 33 and 37 typically have a width dimension of about one-quarter to one-half (1/4 to 1/2) inch.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To secure the hanger 50 to the slatwall 10, the upper stepped portion 54 is angled backward to a tilted position 66 and inserted into upper slot 46. Once the uppermost portion 56 clears the narrow portion 42 and enters the wider portion 44 of the upper slot 46, the hanger 50 is rotated by hand, gravity or otherwise into a generally vertical or set position 67 as shown in **Figures 1 and 2**. In this set or installed position 67, the weight of

the goods and hanger 50 are supported by the step 55, which is resting on or otherwise supported by the upper lip 31 of the middle board 17. As noted above, the outside surface 53 52 of the uppermost end 56 engages the inside surface 37 of the lower lip 35 of the upper board 16. The inside surface 52 of the generally flat middle and lower portions 57 and 58 of the hanger bracket 51 are flush with and pushing against the front surface 22 of the front wall 21 of the middle board 17. When an item is hung on or supported by the hanger rod 61, the weight of the item is transferred through the hanger 50 to the upper lip 31 of the middle board 17. Although the hanger 50 is secured to the slatwall 10 when in its set position 67, should the item or hanger be inadvertently bumped, the hanger 50 can rotate backward in the slot 40 to its tilted or release position 66, slide out of the wider portion 44 of the upper slot 46, and fall to the floor along with the item it is supporting.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 10-18 show a second embodiment of the stabilizing clip 70 with the same main body 72 and a modified brace 150. The brace 150 includes a riser 152 with an inside surface 153 and an upper end 154. The riser 152 has a length dimension that is slightly shorter than that of the inside surface 33 of the lips 31 or 35. The length of the riser 152 positions or otherwise raises the hanger 50 relative to the slatwall 10 so that the outer surface 53 of the vertical segment of the upper stepped portion 54 of the hanger more fully engages the inside surface 33 of the lip 31 of the upper slat 16. Preferably, a majority of the outer surface 53 of the vertical segment of the upper stepped portion 54 abuttingly engages the inside surface 33 of the lip 31 of the upper slat

16. The riser 152 is angled back in the same manner as the head 107 of brace 100, so that its inside surface 153 presses against the front wall 21 of the middle slat 17. The upper end 154 forms a shoulder for supportably engaging the end 59 of the hanger 50. Similar to the other embodiment, the brace 150 has a horizontal neck 156, a substantially vertical head 157, and an inside surface 158. The neck 156 is shorter in length and combines with the shoulder 154 to form a slot ~~160~~ 155 for receiving the lower portion 58 of the hanger 50. The head 157 is also angled back so that it presses the lower portion 58 of the hanger 50 against the middle slat 17. The weight load carried by the hanger 50 is transferred via the riser 152 and its shoulder 154 to the lower lip 35 of the lower slat 18. One way to remove the clip 70 from the slot 40 of the slat wall 10 is to slide the hanger 50 or clip 70 along the slot so that the brace 100 or 150 of the clip no longer engages the hanger. The flat head of a regular screw driver can then be inserted between the brace 100 or 150 and the front wall 21 of the slat 12 and rotated to pry or otherwise work the clip 70 out of the slot 40.